

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

7/15/03

CONFERENCE REPORTS

SB 266 (Johnson)

MILITARY AFFAIRS BUDGET

- SB 266 was re-referred back to Conference Committee [no RC].
- The Senate adopted the Conference Report to SB 266 [RC 377: 37 yes, 0 no]. The report was given Immediate Effect.

SB 277 (Johnson)

STATE POLICE BUDGET

- SB 277 was re-referred back to Conference Committee [no RC].
- The Senate adopted the Conference Report to SB 277 [RC 376: 37 yes, 0 no]. The report was given Immediate Effect.

SB 281 (Johnson)

JUDICIARY BUDGET

• The Senate adopted the Conference Report to SB 281 [RC 372: 36 yes, 0 no]. The report was given Immediate Effect.

SB 283 (Johnson)

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE AGENCY BUDGET

- SB 283 was re-referred back to Conference Committee [no RC].
- The Senate adopted the Conference Report to SB 283 [RC 375: 37 yes, 0 no]. The report was given Immediate Effect.

SB 286 (Johnson)

CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY SERVICES BUDGET

• The Senate adopted the Conference Report to SB 286 [RC 373:37 yes, 0 no]. The report was given Immediate Effect.

SB 288 (Johnson)

DEPT. OF AGRICUTLURE BUDGET

• The Senate adopted the Conference Report to SB 288 [RC 374: 38 yes, 0 no]. The report was given Immediate Effect.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

SB 133 (McManus)

This bill is part of an eight bill package that amends various laws to change the term "homestead" to "principal residence".

The House version adds a provision which grants an exemption from personal property taxes to federally-registered aircraft, in keeping with the Department's practice. [Currently there is an exemption for state-registered aircraft]

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 133 [RC 367: 36 yes, 0 no].

SB 463 (Garcia)

The bill increases the fee for a state ID card from \$7 to \$10. ID cards are valid for 4 years. As passed by the House, the increase would be effective October 1, 2003. The increase would bring in approximately \$780,000 per year to the General Fund.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 463 [RC 368: 35 yes, 3 no].

SB 509 (Gilbert)

BAD DRIVER FEES

The House version removes the language which gives the option to drivers with four points to take a driver improvement course in lieu of paying a driver responsibility fee and earning points on the driving record. The bill would also collect \$1,000 for two consecutive years from drivers who have committed violations such as manslaughter, vehicular homicide, injuring or killing a construction worker, drunken driving, and fleeing a police officer. Drivers convicted of impaired driving, reckless driving, or driving without a license or without insurance would be assessed an additional \$500. Lastly, drivers driving without a valid license or proof of insurance would be charged an additional \$150.

The bill would earmark \$6.3 million of the money received to the fire protection fund within the state Treasury for fire protection grants to cities, villages, and townships with state owned facilities for fire services. The remainder would be deposited into the state's general fund. Overall, the bill is expected to raise some \$65-\$75 million per year.

• Leland 2 (1 amend) was defeated [RC 371: 14 yes (Dems), 21 no]. This would restore the language allowing those with four points to take a "driver responsibility" course, instead of paying the increased fines.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to SB 509 [RC 372: 32 yes, 4 no]. Immediate Effect was given to the bill.

HB 4248 (Van Regenmorter)

Sentencing guidelines to the bill lowering drunk driving levels from .1% to .08%.

• The Senate concurred with the House changes to HB 4248 [RC 370: 34 yes, 0 no].

FINAL PASSAGE

HB 4146 (Ward)

This bill would allow two or more counties, villages, cities or townships or districts to create a recreational authority. Under current law, only two localities can create such an authority. Essentially, the bill aims to allow more flexibility in the geographic boundaries of recreational authorities. It would allow, for example, such authorities to be organized using school district lines.

Support: Michigan Municipal League.

- HB 4146 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.
- HB 4146 passed with IE [RC 373: yes, no].

HB 4192 (Stakoe)

House Bill 4192 is a replacement for Senate Bill 136 in the eight-bill package that changes the term "homestead" to "prinicipal residence". The purpose of this change is to eliminate confusion between the "homestead exemption", which exempts homesteads and certain agricultural property from the 18 mill property tax levied for school operating purposes and the "homestead property tax credit", which is credit available under the income tax act. The changes will be effective beginning in 2004. A substitute was adopted for House Bill 4192 to tie-bar it to the Senate Bills and to add an effective date of January 1, 2004 (which is the effective date for all of the other bills).

• HB 4192 passed with IE [RC 364:36 yes, 1 no].

HB 4704 (Ehardt)

House Bill 4704 would amend the Aeronautics Code of Michigan by deleting the background checks and previous conviction and adding a section that addresses the security of and accessibility to aircraft owned, operated, or on the grounds of the flight school program. It also provides language to mirror federal standards on flight school admissions procedures. Under HB 4704 all flight schools would have to develop a security program that is acceptable to the State Aeronautics Commission.

• HB 4704 passed with IE [RC 366: 36 yes, 0 no].

HB 4708 (Robertson)

The bill would amend the county road law to allow a county road commission to enter into a contract or agreement for the purchase of real or personal property for public purposes, to be paid for in installments over a period not to exceed 15 years or the useful life of the property, whichever was less.

• HB 4708 passed with IE [RC 365: 37 yes, 0 no].

HB 4806 (LaJoy)

This changes current language in the state's downtown development laws to expand the definition for "other protected obligation" so it would apply to a Belleville downtown development project to build a 280-unit site condominium subdivision and a 23-acre public park.

Support: City of Belleville, Wayne County.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted [no RC].
- HB 4806 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 4806 passed with IE [RC 369: 35 yes, 0 no].

RESOLUTIONS

SR 131 (Sanborn)

Resolution calling on Congress to increase efforts to protect Lake St. Clair.

• SR 131 was adopted [no RC].